

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 MC-01 PM-03 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

L-01 RSC-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 EB-03 /040 W

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O 152230Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8607

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 4958

LIMDIS

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PGOV, HO

SUBJECT: PROPOSED F-86 SALE TO HONDURAS

REF: (A) STATE 236606; (B) STATE 208003; (C) STATE 252051

1. WITH REGARD TO PARAGRAPH 5, REFTEL C, RELUCTANTLY I SHARE YOUR TENDENCY TO PREFER ALTERNATIVE 2, FOR THE REASONS WHICH YOU SO DEFTLY STATED. AGREE THAT THIS INVOLVES "VERY DELICATE BUSINESS" BUT UNFORTUNATELY ENTIRE SUBJECT CAN BE SO CHARACTERIZED.

2. THIS MORNING I VISITED WITH CHIEF OF STATE LOPEZ AND HE TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO WEAVE SUBJECT OF F-86S INTO THE CONVERSATION. HE SAID THE MATTER CONTINUES TO SERVE AS A POINT OF PRESSURE COMING FROM THE ARMED FORCES. HE SAID AIR FORCE PARTICULARLY DISGRUNTLED OVER GOES PURCHASE OF "SHPHISTICATED"
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AIRCRAFT WHILE HONDURAS "AT THE WEAKEST POINT IN ITS MODERN

HISTORY, DOES NOTHING." LOPEZ INDICATED APPROACH MADE BY AEROTRADE, INC. OF FLORIDA AND STATED THAT GOH HAD MADE 10 PER CENT DEPOSIT IN FLORIDA BANK ON BASIS UNDERSTANDING THAT AEROTRADE WAS IN POSITION TO CONCLUDE TRANSACTION INDEPENDENTLY. SUBSEQUENTLY AEROTRADE INFORMED GOH THAT IT WOULD HAV TO ASSIST IN OBTAINING STATE DEPARTMENT APPROVAL FOR CONSUMMATION OF SALE. LOPEZ THEN SAID HE TOLD ARMED FORCES LEADERS HE WANTED TERMINATION OF DEALINGS WITH AEROTRADE AND ORDERED EFFORT TO REGAIN FUNDS DEPOSITED BY GOH.

2. COMMENT: ONE T33 WHICH WAS PART OF THE DEAL HAD ALREADY BEEN DELIVERED TO SAN PEDRO SULA. GENERAL LOPEZ AT THIS POINT HAS NO IDEA WHAT THE DISPOSITION OF THAT CRAFT WILL BE.

3. GENERAL LOPEZ ABASHEDLY STATED THAT HE CONSIDERED INITIAL DEALINGS WITH AEROTRADE TO BE SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL. HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW HOW LONG HE COULD MANAGE TO KEEP GOH OUT OF SUCH OPERATIONS WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS BORDERING ON THE BLACK MARKET AND HOPED THAT USG WOULD CONSIDER THE REALITIES OF THE SITUATION AND RELENT ON AIRCRAFT SALES. SINCE MY MEETING WITH GENERAL LOPEZ WAS IN THE MORNING I DID NOT RECEIVE REFTEL C UNTIL AFTERWARD. I THEN SCHEDULED RAPID MEETING WITH ACTING FONMIN PINEDA MILLA (REPORTED SEPTTEL) AND ASKED FOR FINAL AUDIENCE WITH GENERAL LOPEZ WHICH IS TO TAKE PLACE THIS EVENING.

4. POLOFF ACCOMPANIED ME TO MEETING WITH ACTING FONMIN PINEDA MILLA, WHO ASSURED US THAT HONDURAS GENUINELY MOVING TO GET HONDURAS/SALVADOR NEGOTIATIONS OFF DEAD CENTER. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF "ACTING" POSITION OF PINEDA MILLA I FEEL NEED TO HAVE SAME ASSURANCES FROM CHIEF OF STATE HIMSELF. REALIZING DELICATE NATURE OF OUR POSTURE, TONIGHT WILL FIND ME TIPTOEING THROUGH THE DAISIES HOPING NOT TO SETP ON BUMBLEBEE. WILL WIRE RESULTS PRIOR TO MY DEPARTURE SCHEDULED FOR EARLY TOMORROW MORNING.
SANCHEZ

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Message Attributes

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